

## **Preface**

The “Choices for Care”, Long-Term Care Medicaid program operates as a Research and Demonstration Project authorized under Section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act. This program provides long-term care services to elderly or physically disabled Vermont adults who are found eligible by the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (the Department or DAIL). The primary goal of the Choices for Care waiver is to provide Vermonters with equal access to either nursing facility care or home and community-based services, consistent with their choice. The Choices for Care waiver is subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is managed in compliance with CMS terms and conditions of participation.

The Department has developed this operational protocol manual for the purpose of describing the eligibility criteria, services and program procedures to assist individuals, case managers and service providers in planning and managing services. This manual shall act as a companion to existing Vermont State regulations.

The Department shall revise and distribute this manual to provider agencies and other interested parties as necessary. A current version will be maintained online at the DAIL website at <http://www.dail.state.vt.us/>. Please forward any comments or suggestions regarding this manual to “Choices for Care” Administration, Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2301 (802-241-2400).

This manual is dedicated to the caregivers and staff throughout Vermont who work diligently to support individuals to live with dignity and respect in the setting of their choice. Without their ongoing commitment to serving Vermonters, the Choices for Care, Vermont Long-Term Care Medicaid program would neither exist nor succeed.